

38
Charles Lucas's
PROPHECY,

Concerning the

Mock-PATRIOTS

OF

I R E L A N D;

Humbly addressed to the Free-Citizens of the City of DUBLIN.

*Our Iron Age is grown an Age of Gold,
'Tis who bids most, for all Men would be sold.*

DR.

LONDON: Printed in the Year, 1756.



CHARLES LUCAS'S PROPHECY, &c.

Brethren, and *once* Fellow Citizens,

THOSE Men who write, and those Ministers of State who advise, that a King may assume and exercise Powers and Prerogatives, inconsistent with, or contrary to, the original Constitution, are the worst Enemies any King can have, for what a King acquires by following such an advice, is neither *valuable* nor *durable*; but what he loses is inestimable: and yet all ages afford Instances of such evil Council, given and followed, and of the calamitous Consequences ensuing thereupon. The natural Fruits and Effects of an adherence to, and observance of the original Constitution, will be Safety, Riches, Honour, the Love and obedience of the People, their united Fidelity and Assistance, and consequently Puissance and Victory over their Enemies.

That the King can *do* no WRONG, is a Position oftener heard than understood, which induces me at this Time to explain that Matter. Tho' a King should against *Right*, enter upon and take possession of any Subject's Lands, Liberties or Properties, yet that Possession, tho' continued, for a long Time, should not work a *Wrong*, nor gain any Right out of the Subject; and so on the other Hand, the Subjects wrongful Intrusion and Possession of the King's Lands, or Prerogatives, should not work a *Wrong* to such King, nor gain, or wrest any Right from, or out of the Government

ment ; and therefore this *impassible Quality*, would be useful as well to the Subject as to the supreme Governor.

It should ever be understood of this impassible Quality, that the supreme Governor, (*qua. Governor,*) cannot command wrongful or unlawful Things, but that all such Commands, being wrong and illegal, it should be understood by them, that the Command was unadvised ; and that all acts done in obedience to such illegal Commands, should be deemed null and void, and that those Persons who execute such Commands, shall be looked upon to do the same at their Peril, and should be responsible for the Wrong without any Imputation of Wrong to the supreme Governor, if he doth not avow and defend the Action ; because the supposition of Wrong, is inconsistent with the supreme Government : In as much as the Government was instituted to do *Right*, and protect from *Wrong*. You are all sensible, my Brethren, what Principles I was banished for inculcating, and you are equally sensible, that my most inveterate Enemies, who persecuted me to Exile, when they found themselves stripped of Power, and over-burdened with national Disgrace, revived those very Principles, and adopted every Tenet prescribed by me. That they were actuated, I mean two or three of the Leaders only, by different Motives from mine, I believe the Event will clearly demonstrate.

In the beginning of those Contests, the Publick was not the Point in View with those Leaders, tho' they artfully made it a Pander to their Popularity.

The Contest was no more than a Struggle between a few Families for Power and Places, in which while they were equally gratify'd a L—t was always the Head of the Commons. But the Power of the S—r appeared formidable to his Rivals, having got so strong a Party in the C—ns, that your late G—v—r seeing the inconvenience of such Influence in the Hands of any Subject, resolved to abridge it, at all Events.

When your S——r found himself thus attacked, he

he resolved to give the G—nt every Opposition that could carry the least Appearance of Patriotism, and the L—d L—t found that all Respect due from the People, was transferred to those Popular Leaders, who, meerly thro' Resentment, were foremost in the Opposition.

The deluded People, who had too much Honesty to fathom the depth of State Policy, loudly Applauded those *Leaders*, as their *Vindicators*, the *Affertors* of their Rights and Liberties, and deemed the S—r the *Gustavus* of the Land. Tho' I intend to do Justice to those late imputed Patriots; I shall by no Means attempt to justify the Conduct of the D— of D—t and his Friends, as they really intended to carry the most dangerous Points, and endeavour'd to support the most unpopular Measures.

When the D— of D—t found himself out-numbered in the Year 1751, upon a Question proposed for a Tryal of Strength, he thought it Prudence and Policy not to attempt any Thing extraordinary that Session; and indeed, a Man of less Modesty and *Design*, would have been contended with the Points he had already carried. The first, in passing the *Money Bill*, tho' *altered* here. A second, in dropping the Prosecution against N—l, whom they could then have censured to an Expulsion; and thirdly in dropping a *Design*, which had been talked of without doors, of rejecting the new Stile. After these mean and unconstitutional Concessions to G—nt, which they falsely stiled a Spirit of Moderation; how could a wise or intelligent People repose a Confidence in such Men?

Were they not the same Tools to Power, who banished me, who without any Opposition or Hesitation or even *one* dissenting Voice, passed that dangerous *BILL*, which not only left or confessed the publick Treasure at the disposal of the Crown, in this and all future Times, but changed the most essential Form of an Act of Parliament, and stripped the Commons of the only valuable Privilege, which has not been pared away from the Constitution by former insidious Ministers?

He

Had we lived under a *Prince*, who could be supposed to exert a Power however obtained, to the Prejudice of his People, where would the Calamities of such a Parliamentary Proceeding end? Surely in no less, than leaving the public Treasure at the mercy of a future rapacious Minister, and reducing the Irish P—t like the poor Remnant of the Gallick States, still retaining the *Name*, without any of the *Essentials* of a Parliament, by agreeing to receive the *Consent* or *Permission* of the Ministry, to debate upon and pass a Bill under it's Sanction and Direction, as the others are constrained to register Arrets of the Crown, not otherwise. And thus did those *Mock-Romans* at once give up the Freedom of P—t, and the People's Right to the Redundancies of publick Money, after the Exegencies of the State were served, and shamefully subscribe to the illicit Dictates of the Ministry. Have I not repeatedly told you, the Consequence of banishing the first Man among you, that shewed that your P—t was free as that of *Britain*, and had by Law and by Right the same Authority, Privilege and Power within that Realm, as the *British* Parliament has within theirs, except the unnatural Concessions made under the detestable Administration of that perfidious Minister *Poining*. Had that been allowed by the Irish P—t, which they should at the Peril of their Lives and Fortunes have maintained; what Minister would have been hardy enough to prescribe such shameful and destructive Terms to them as giving up at once the Rights of the People, and the Privilege of P—t, which in more Wise and Virtuous Times, would have been deemed one and the same; yet he that asserted the Rights of both, was voted an Enemy to his Country.

But in the Year, 1753, when the S——r found that his former Power was not to be restored, and that he was to act under two Men whom he utterly detested, he could very significantly explain the Danger and Absurdity of *previous Consent*, and immediately set all his Friends in Opposition to it. The act must forever

ever be allowed to be good, but the Motives are not hard to conjecture, and if ever they were dubious, his late Conduct has fully evinced them to the World. Why was not this great Man and his Friends banished their Country for supporting the Rights of the People and the Privilege of P——t, was not their Crime adequate to mine? Did I not Point out the Path, and is it not the only good Thing they ever did to pursue it even so far? But see my Brethren how the Scene is chang'd, this Earl! this mighty Earl! this once illustrious M—o—l—st has betray'd you all, to raise his Friend on this Side the Water. Has not this Man sprung into the first Consequence, at the Expence of your Country? Criminal as your S—r may be, I must do even an Enemy Justice, he is not most to blame. There is an extenuation of Guilt in the worst Acts of Necessity for if he had not submitted to the Conditions offered to him, I need not say by whom, this E—gregious E—l would withdraw his Property Men from him, and leave him to sink with a Minority.

But was it not more glorious to fall with an honourable Cause, than to desert his Party and betray the Man who is the only Victim among you to Patriot Worth? Would a Man of innate Honour, real and determined Principles of Patriotism, tamely resign his Power to a Person who he is conscious has been so long struggling for it, for the most pernicious Purposes, a Man reared and educated in the Tricks and Policy of a Sire, who always endeavoured to promote his Interest on the *other Side*, by enslaving those whom Interest and Choice should induce him to protect. But are not these Things so? What hopes have ye now my Brethren, from this extraordinary Change?

Every Tool of the A—n is gratify'd with Places and Pensions, or more potent Promises, not a Mouth is left unstopped that was clamorous in the Opposition, even Women and Children are placed on the Con—a—um List, tho' Indigence and * venerable Locks obtain no Favour at Court. Shall I ask you my Brethren, can any pleasing Question now miscar-

ry

* *Ja. H—l—n.*

James Hamilton of Carlisle

ry in an Assembly thus *documented*, thus influenced? Surely it requires but a little steadiness, with some Portion of B—ff—o—onian *Cunning*, to hold the Reins, and turn the ambling Palfrey as the Rider lists.

The Nag now in Question, is tractable and will require neither Whip nor Spur. Slack Reins and high Feeding will soon make him wanton. But if you are so happy as to have any skilful Jockies among you, they may keep this *Beast of unusual* Burden well muzzled, they may keep him from Kicking, Prancing or Bouncing, destroying his Neighbour's Fences, or stopping to feed any where but at the Places appointed, or in any Respect risque the Damage of their *Loading*.

But if the Carrier's Master should spoil the leading Horse, he may prove dangerous to his Followers. Suppose when the Beasts are tardy or sullen, to elude them, he sometimes *rides* and sometimes walks before the *Caravan*, with a Truss of Hay, or a Bag of Corn, which he holds in the View of them all, and of which he gives them all Hopes to share. I say, suppose he now and then gives a Bell-horse, and *those Beasts, who stick close to him*, a tiny Bit, to encourage them, and to stir up the others to *emulate* his *Pace*. These Devices in a neighbouring Country, had so great an Effect on Horses that the *Proprietor* took their Muzzles Intirely off, and left them at discretionary Power, to eat and drink where they could, at the neighbours Expence?

And if British Beasts could be brought to imbibe such advantageous Instruction, what may we not expect from passive Irish Garrons, who are generally more intractable, but much cheaper kept.

But my Brethren, let us not fix such a gloomy Prospect foremost, let us still suppose that we have a competent Number of generous Horses, impatient of Reins or Muzzles, and who disdain to be drove hard into the Bargain. Such generous Cattle will take the first Opportunity of disappointing the *Carrier*, stop short in the middle of the Journey, and in full career, break the Bands and free themselves from the Goadings of their tyrannical Leaders.

F I N I S.



e
e
e
r
r
g
l,
e
h
s
d
/i
p
a
es
ff,
k
e
x-
ly
of-
m.
ns
to
rst
ort
ak
or